

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4 Columbia River Compact March 1, 2006

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial fisheries

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2006 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 26, 2006)

- 2006 non-treaty spring Chinook fisheries will operate under the Commission's direction for allocation of upriver Chinook impacts: 57% (1.14% impact rate) to recreational fisheries and 43% (0.86% impact rate) to commercial fisheries.
- The Compact directed management staff to initially conduct all fisheries with a 25% buffer for upriver spring Chinook.
- The Compact adopted the following allocations:

2006 Upriver Spring Chinook ESA- Impact Allocation by Fishery		
	With 25% buffer	Without 25% buffer
Commercial Fishery (43% of ESA impacts)		
Mainstem salmon	0.55	0.76
SAFE Commercial Winter/Spring	0.10	0.10
Commercial Total	0.65¹	0.86
Recreational Fishery (57% of ESA impacts)		
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.64	0.85
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.07	0.10
SNAKE RIVER SPORT/WANAPUM TRIBAL	0.14	0.19
Recreational Total	0.86²	1.14
Total non-treaty	1.50	2.00

1. Impacts associated with the commercial shad fishery ($\leq 0.01\%$) will occur after a runsize update is available and will be incorporated into the commercial allocation.
2. Impacts associated with the lower Columbia steelhead fishery ($\leq 0.01\%$ if no Chinook retention May 15-Jun 15) will occur after a runsize update is available and will be incorporated into the recreational allocation.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2006 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- The fishery concluded on February 22 with landings of 276 white sturgeon and 39 spring Chinook.
- Catch was below expectations due to poor river conditions early in the season and low effort.
- Based on sampling of 19 spring Chinook landed (49% sample rate), 100% were of lower river origin.

2006 Winter Select Area Fisheries

- Preliminary landings for winter fisheries in Youngs Bay through February 27 (four fishing periods) include nine spring Chinook and three white sturgeon. Based on 100% sampling, one fish (11%) was of upriver origin.
- No fish have been landed in either Blind Slough or Deep River winter fisheries through February 28 (two fishing periods in each).

2006 Winter Salmon Fisheries

- February 23 marked the first commercial fishing period for spring salmon. An 18-hour, large mesh fishery resulted in landings of 26 spring Chinook and 18 white sturgeon. Lower river Chinook comprised 90% of the landings, based on visual observations.

Spring Chinook Fishery 2006 - Preliminary Observation Data*																						
Date	Mesh size	# Drifts	Lower R.			UpRiver			Chinook no VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio Chinook /Steelhead	Total Steelhead	Steelhead				Steelhead /Drift	Wild Sthd /Drift % UpRiver	Chinook	% Marked Chinook
			Clipped	No Mark	Unknown	Clipped	No Mark	Unknown	Clipped	No Mark	Unknown				Hatchery	Wild	Unknown	DNA count				
Feb 23-24 Full Fleet	≥8"	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	0.08	0.04	0%	100%
Feb 28 Test Fish	4 ¼"	13	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.5	11	5	6	0	0	0.85	0.46	33%	100%
*ALL DATA IS PRELIMINARY. Only fish observed are reported. Catch from drifts made prior to on-board monitoring are not included.																						

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Recommendation	
Season:	6 AM Thursday March 2 through 6 AM Friday March 3, 2006 (24 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-4 upstream to Kelley Point.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokommin-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries.
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament nets is allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Regulations were adopted at January 26, 2006 Compact, which include: Use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red cork and lighted buoy requirements and cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data.
Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.	

- Chinook catch should be primarily lower river stock. Steelhead handle is expected to be minimal.
- Test fishing is scheduled to occur again on Sunday March 5.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing (via telephone) be scheduled for 2:00 PM Monday March 6 to consider a commercial fishing period for Tuesday, March 7.